

Message Text

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FOL RPT PARIS 16516 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO COTONOU BUJUMBURA
KIGALI BRAZZAVILLE ABIDJAN DJIBOUTI BANGUI LIBREVILLE
OUAGADOUGOU BAMAKO PORT LOUIS NOUAKCHOTT NIAMEY DAKAR BISSAU
PRAIA VICTORIA LONDON BONN NJDAMENA KINSHASA LOME MAY 24, 1978.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 16516

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG, PEPR, FR, XA
SUBJECT: FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT

REF: PARIS 16442

SUMMARY: SECURITY QUESTIONS PREDOMINATED AT SECOND
DAY OF FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED
ALMOST ENTIRELY TO ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS
THEREFORE SEEMED SOMEWHAT INCONGRUOUS BUT IN
FACT REFLECTED A BASIC CONCERN OF THE CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS. WHILE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE REACHED
NO AGREEMENT ON SECURITY COOPERATION, CERTAIN WEST
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AFRICAN LEADERS INCLUDING HOUPHUET BOIGNY OF THE
IVORY COAST AND BONGO OF GABON SAID THEY FAVORED
EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING (THOUGH NOT YET VERY
ACTIVE) DEFENSE AGREEMENT ASSOCIATED
WITH THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TO
INCLUDE CERTAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PREOCCUPATION WITH SECURITY OF THE FRANCO-
AFRICAN SUMMIT DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOTAL DURING THE SECOND.
THE COMMUNIQUE (SEE NEXT PARA FOR MAIN POINTS) WHICH
DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH ECONOMIC SUBJECTS SEEMS
AS IF IT COULD HAVE COME FROM A DIFFERENT MEETING
BUT IN FACT REFLECTED A GENERAL CONCERN WITH
DEVELOPMENT MATTERS. PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S APPEARANCE
WAS A MAIN FEATURE OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION. HE
ALSO HAD A BILATERAL MEETING WITH GISCARD AFTER WHICH
THE ELYSEE REFUSED ALL COMMENT.

2. MAIN POINTS OF COMMUNIQUE (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY
TRANSLATION):

THE CHIEFS OF STATE, GOVERNMENT AND DELEGATIONS EXAMINED
THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT. THEY UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY OF
SEEING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE PURSUED AND DEEPENED...
THE PARTICIPANTS INSISTED ON THE NECESSITY ON THE PART
OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL POWERS OF A MORE SUBSTANTIAL
PARTICIPATION IN THE MAJOR OPERATIONS OF THE PLANS
OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. THEY WERE AGREED THAT THE
NECESSARY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN QUICKLY TO PUT
INTO EFFECT THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND. THEY
RENEWED THE INTEREST WHICH THEY HAVE IN SEEING FRANCE'S
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PARTNERS OF THE WESTERN WORLD -- IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE PROPOSAL OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT -- CONDUCT IN
COMMON AN EXCEPTIONAL ACTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
AFRICA. IN THIS REGARD THEY WERE PLEASED ABOUT THE
CONSULTATIONS WHICH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD UNDER-
TAKEN WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS
WITH CERTAIN OF ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS. THEY NOTED
THAT M. GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL SPEAK AGAIN ABOUT
THIS QUESTION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON MAY 26 AT
WASHINGTON. THEY EXCHANGED INFORMATION RELATIVE TO
THE ACTION OF REGIONAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS.
THEY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE EVOLUTION OF TIES
BETWEEN THE EEC AND THE AFRICAN STATES AND THE CONDI-
TIONS OF APPLICATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION.

AS FOR FRANCO-AFRICAN COOPERATION, AND IN VIEW OF THE
DIFFICULTIES OF THE SAHEL COUNTRIES, ONCE AGAIN
VICTIMS OF DROUGHT, THE PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED THEIR
GRAND SATISFACTION AT THE DECISION ANNOUNCED BY
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTIONAL
DONATION TO THE SPECIAL PROGRAM TO COMBAT DROUGHT.
THE DONATION WILL BE 60 MILLION FRANCS IN 1978

AND WILL RISE TO 100 MILLION IN 1979.

CONCERNING THE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL IN FAVOR OF THE CREATION OF A FRAMEWORK GROUPING CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES, IT WAS DECIDED TO CREATE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SENEGAL A STUDY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF FIVE EXPERTS REPRESENTING THE MAJOR REGIONAL ENTITIES AND DESIGNATED BY THE PARTICIPATING STATES. FINALLY, THE CHIEFS OF STATE RECALLED WITH FORCE THE RIGHT OF SECURITY WITHIN THEIR FRONTIERS OF ALL AFRICAN STATES WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL REGIME. THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A CONCERTATION WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCRETIZATION OF THEIR SOLIDARITY MIGHT TAKE PLACE QUICKLY.

THE NEXT FRANCO AFRICAN SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN 1979 IN KIGALI RWANDA.

3. COMMENT: THE INTEREST SHOWN BY THE AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRESS OF FRENCH DISCUSSIONS WITH POTENTIAL DONORS CONCERNING THE GISCARD INITIATIVE (SOMETIMES CALLED THE GISCARD FUND) IS REPORTED BY THE QUAI TO HAVE BEEN VERY INTENSE AND SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE. REFERENCE TO THE UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD AND PRESIDENT CARTER TOGETHER WITH MENTION OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN PARTNERS STEPS UP PRESSURE FOR EARLY DECISIONS ON A CONCRETE FOLLOW UP TO THE GISCARD INITIATIVE.

4. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAST MEETING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, PRESIDENT BONGO (AS PRESIDENT OF THE OAU) AND HOUPHOUET BOIGNY (AS DEAN OF AFRICAN PRESIDENTS). THE PRESS CONFERENCE DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH SECURITY MATTERS. HOUPHOUET BOIGNY DECLARED THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY NOW LINKED BY A DEFENSE ACCORD PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE STATES OF CENTRAL AFRICA WITH A VIEW TO ENLARGING THE DEFENSE PACT. "FOR THIS", HE SAID, "WE NEED THE SUPPORT OF FRANCE. WE HAVE NO COMPLEXES IN THIS REGARD...THERE IS NO REASON WHY FRANCE SHOULD NOT COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSION." PRESIDENT BONGO, REPEATING THE SAME THEME SAID THAT THE EXISTING WEST AFRICAN GROUPING MIGHT BE ENLARGED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INCLUDE CERTAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS "GABON, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, CHAD, AND -- WHY NOT -- CAMEROUN AND EVENTUALLY ZAIRE." SPEAKING IN HIS TURN GISCARD SAID THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR ORGANIZING THE SECURITY SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THIS SHOULD LATER BE REINFORCED BY THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES GIVING NEW AND MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ZAIRE, GISCARD SAID THAT THE FRENCH LEGIONAIRES WOULD RETURN TO THEIR BASE "AS SOON AS THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSION WHICH IS TO SEARCH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED OR TAKEN AWAY AS HOSTAGE."

5. FOLLOWING MEETINGS AT QUAI AND ELYSEE THIS EVENING (MAY 24) AND TOMORROW WE WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY. HARTMAN
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